

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7805

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0300

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT ELAB SHUM CI
SUBJ: GOC RUSTICATES LEADERS OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT LEFT

1. GOC POLICE (INVESTIGACCIONES) AND SECURITY (CNI) FORCES
DETAINED 13 LEADERS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT (PDC) LEFT
WHO WERE MEETING IN A DOWNTOWN APARTMENT THE EVENING OF
JANUARY 13. THOSE ARRESTED WERE:

JUAN SEPULVADA

ANDREAS AYLWIN

TOMAS REYES

SAMUEL ASTORGA

LUIS BALBONTIN

VELIASRIO VELASCO

HERNAN MARY

ELIAS SANCHEZ

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ENRIQUE HERNANDEZ

JUAN REYES

GEORGINA ACEITUNO

GUILLERMO YUNGE

MARIA TERESA FIGUERAS

2. LATER THREE OTHER PERSONS WERE ALSO PICKED UP:

HECTOR EGAND

MIGUEL ALARCON

JUAN ACUNA

3. THE DETAINEES COMPRISE VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE MAINSTREAM OF THE PDC LEFT. INCLUDED ARE: EX-PDC PARLIAMENTARIANS REYES, ALWYN, AND ASTORGA; LABOR LEADER SEPULVEDA; FORMER RADIO BALMACEDA HEAD VELASCO; AND YOUTH LEADER GUILLERMO YUNGE WHO WAS WITHIN DAYS OF DEPARTING FOR THE US UNDER THE EMBASSY'S IV PROGRAM.

4. THE ARRESTS WERE CARRIED OUT WITH MUCH FANFARE. THE MEDIA HAD ADVANCE WARNING AND THE 13 WERE ESCORTED TO THE PADDY WAGON IN SMALL GROUPS AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF WHIRRING TV CAMERAS AND POPPING FLASHBULBS. THE PDCERS HAD BEEN MEETING IN YUNGE'S DOWNTOWN APARTMENT. THEY WERE ARRESTED FOR HOLDING A POLITICAL MEETING IN VIOLATION OF THE POLITICAL RECESS (LAW 12927 -- DECREE 1697).

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5. WE HAVE JUST BEEN INFORMED THAT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAS ISSUED DECREES (2407 AND 2408) RUSTICATING 12 OF THE 13 INITIALLY ARRESTED AT THE APARTMENT. (COMMENT: RELEASED WERE ALL THREE PERSONS PICKED UP LATER -- PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE -- AND MARIA TERESA FIGUERAS, A YOUNG GIRL.) THE REMAINING 12 ARE ON THEIR WAY TO REMOTE VILLAGES IN CHILE'S RUGGED ANDEAN NORTH. BELISARIO VELASCO AND JUAN SEPULVADA HAVE BEEN THERE BEFORE: THE FORMER SERVED SEVERAL WEEKS IN PUTRE IN 1976 FOR HIS RADIO BALMACEDA ACTIVITIES AND THE LATTER WAS IN THE AREA FOR SEVERAL DAYS IN LATE 1977 FOR UNION ACTIVISM.

6. COMMENT: THE OBVIOUS DECISION TO GIVE THE DETENTION OF THE PDCERS USCH THOROUGH PUBLICITY IS A STRONG INDICATOR THAT GOC DECIDED TO FOLLOW EXISTING LEGAL NICITIES AND NOT INDULGE IN ROUGH STUFF. THESE ARRESTS AND THEIR PUBLICITY UNDERLINE RECENT HARD-NOSED SPEECHES BY PINOCHET (ON JANUARY 4 AND SINCE), THE MESSAGE OF WHICH HAS BEEN, "THE OLD POLITICAL DAYS ARE OVER." WE JUDGE THAT PINOCHET BELIEVES THE "CONSULTA" RESULTS GIVE HIM A MANDATE TO KEEP THE POLITICAL LID ON. THE ARREST AND RELEGATION OF THE PDC LEADERS IS NO DOUBT INTENDED TO "SEND THEM THE MESSAGE" THAT THE GOC WILL NOT TOLERATE POLITICAL

PARTY ACTIVITY.

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Message Attributes

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